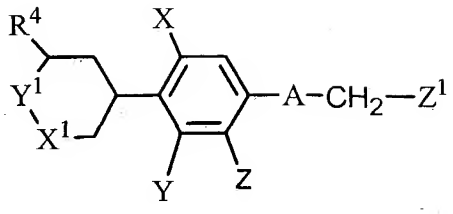
What is claimed is:

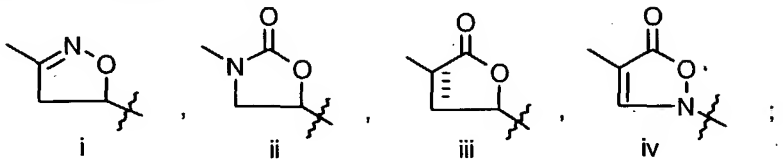
1. A compound of formula I



I

or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof wherein:

A is structure i, ii, iii, or iv



i , ii , iii , iv ;

X^1 and Y^1 together form the group $-C(=O)N(R^5)-$ wherein X^1 is either C(=O) (and Y^1 is NR^5) or X^1 is NR^5 (and Y^1 is C(=O)).

Z^1 is

(a) $NHC(=O)R^1$,

(b) $NHC(=S)R^1$,

(c) $NH–het^1$,

(d) $O\text{-}het^1$,

(e) $S\text{-}het^1$, or

(f) het^2;

R^1 is

(a) NH_2,

(b) $NHC_{1\text{-}4}alkyl$,

(c) $C_{1\text{-}4}alkyl$,

(d) $C_{2\text{-}4}alkenyl$,

(e) $-CH_2C(=O)C_{1\text{-}4}alkyl$,

(f) $OC_{1\text{-}4}alkyl$,

(g) $SC_{1\text{-}4}alkyl$, or

(h) $C_{3\text{-}6}cycloalkyl$;

Each X,Y, and Z is independently selected from

(e) H,

(f) Cl,

(g) F, or

(h) CH_3

R^4 is

(a) H,

(b) C_{1-4}alkyl,

(c) OC_{1-4}alkyl,

(d) SC_{1-4}alkyl, or

(e) NHC_{1-4}alkyl;

R^5 is

(a) H,

(b) C_{1-4}alkyl, or

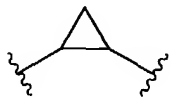
(c) $-(CH_2)_n-W_1-(CH_2)_n-Z^3$;

W_1 is

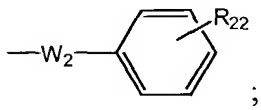
(a) $-CH_2-$,

(b) -CH=CH-,

(c) -C≡C-, or

(d)  ;

Z^3 is

(a)  ;

W_2 is

(a) -O-,

(b) $-N(R_{25})-$, or

(c) $-C(=O)-N(R_{25})-$, wherein either the carbon or the nitrogen atom of the amide may be bound to a carbon atom of the phenyl ring of Z^3;

R_{22} is $(CH_2)_tNR_{23}R_{24}$, H, halo, C_{1-4}alkyl, -CN, -OH, $-O-C_{1-4}$alkyl, $-S(O)_uC_{1-4}$alkyl, and $-C(=O)NH_2$

R_{23} is H or C_{1-4} alkyl;

R_{24} is is H, C_{1-4} alkyl, -$S(O)_2$-C_{1-4}alkyl, -C(=O)-C_{1-4} alkyl, -C(=NH)-NH_2, -C(=O)-$C(HR_{26})$-$NR_{27}R_{28}$;

R_{25} is H or C_{1-4} alkyl;

R_{26} is H, C_{1-4} alkyl which can be optionally substituted by -OH, -NH_2, -NH-C(=NH)-NH_2, -SH, -SCH_3, -COOH, -$C(O)NH_2$, and phenyl which can be optionally substituted with –OH, imidazole, indole, or R_{26} and R_{27} together with the carbon atom to which R_{26} attaches and the nitrogen atom to which R_{27} attaches form a heterocycloalkyl;

R_{27} is H or C_{1-4} alkyl;

R_{28} is H, C_{1-4} alkyl, -$S(O)_2$-C_{1-4}alkyl, -C(=O)-C_{1-4} alkyl, -C(=NH)-NH_2, -C(=O)-$C(HR_{26})$-$NR_{27}R_{27}$

t is 0, 1;

u is 0, 1, 2;

n is 1 or 2;

het^1 is a C-linked five- (5) or six- (6) membered heterocyclic ring having 1-4 heteroatoms selected from the group consisting of oxygen, sulfur, and nitrogen; het^1 being optionally substituted on one or more carbon atoms by 1-2 substituents selected from C_1-C_4alkyl, amino, C_1-C_4alkylamino, C_1-C_4alkyloxy, halogen –CN, =O, =S, and being optionally substituted with C_1-C_4alkyl;

het^2 is a N-linked five- (5) or six- 6) membered heterocyclic ring having at least one nitrogen atom, and optionally having one oxygen or sulfur atom; het^2 being optionally substituted on one or more carbon atoms by 1-2 substituents selected from C_1-C_4alkyl, amino, C_1-C_4alkylamino, C_1-C_4alkyloxy, halogen –CN, =O, =S, and being optionally substituted with C_1-C_4alkyl;

heterocycloalkyl is a four (5) or seven (7) membered saturated heterocyclic ring having 1-4 heteroatoms selected from the group consisting of oxygen, sulfur, and nitrogen; heterocycloalkyl being optionally substituted on one or more carbon atoms by 1-2 substituents selected from C_1-C_4alkyl, amino, C_1-C_4alkylamino, C_1-C_4alkyloxy, halogen –CN, =O, =S, and being optionally substituted with C_1-C_4alkyl;

at each occurrence, alkyl, alkenyl, or cycloalkyl is optionally substituted with 1-3 halo, -OH, -OC_{1-4}alkyl, and

Aryl refers to phenyl, biphenyl, or naphthyl, optionally substituted with halo,

C_{1-4} alkyl, OH, OC_{1-4} alkyl, $-CH_2NH_2$, $-CH_2NH(C_{1-4}$ alkyl), and $S(O)_uC_{1-4}$alkyl.

2. The compound of claim 1, wherein A is formula ii.

3. The compound of claim 1, wherein X is F.

4. The compound of claim 3, wherein Y is F.

5. The compound of claim 1, wherein Z^1 is $-NH-C(O)R_1$.

6. The compound of claim 5, wherein R_1 is selected from C_{1-4}alkyl optionally substituted with 1-3 halo.

7. The compound of claim 6, wherein R_1 is C_{1-4}alkyl substituted with 1-2 halo.

8. The compound of claim 1, wherein Z^1 is $-NH-C(S)R_1$.

9. The compound of claim 8, wherein R_1 is selected from C_{1-4}alkyl optionally substituted with 1-3 halo.

10. The compound of claim 9, wherein R_1 is C_{1-4}alkyl substituted with 1-2 halo.

11. The compound of claim 1, wherein Y^1 is $-C(=O)-$ and X^1 is $-N(R_5)-$.

12. The compound of claim 1, wherein X^1 is $-C(=O)-$ and Y^1 is $-N(R_5)-$.

13. A compound selected from the group consisting of

N-({(5*S*)-3-[3-fluoro-4-(6-oxopiperidin-3-yl)phenyl]-2-oxo-1,3-oxazolidin-5-yl}methyl)acetamide;

N-({(5*S*)-3-[3-fluoro-4-(6-oxopiperidin-3-yl)phenyl]-2-oxo-1,3-oxazolidin-5-yl}methyl)propanamide;

2,2-dichloro-*N*-({(5*S*)-3-[3-fluoro-4-(6-oxopiperidin-3-yl)phenyl]-2-oxo-1,3-oxazolidin-5-yl}methyl)acetamide;

2,2-difluoro-*N*-({(5*S*)-3-[3-fluoro-4-(6-oxopiperidin-3-yl)phenyl]-2-oxo-1,3-oxazolidin-5-yl}methyl)ethanethioamide;

2,2-difluoro-*N*-({(5*S*)-3-[3-fluoro-4-(6-oxopiperidin-3-yl)phenyl]-2-oxo-1,3-oxazolidin-5-yl}methyl)acetamide;

N-({(5*S*)-3-[3,5-difluoro-4-(6-oxopiperidin-3-yl)phenyl]-2-oxo-1,3-oxazolidin-5-yl}methyl)acetamide;

2,2-dichloro-*N*-({(5*S*)-3-[3,5-difluoro-4-(6-oxopiperidin-3-yl)phenyl]-2-oxo-1,3-oxazolidin-5-yl}methyl)acetamide;

N-({(5*S*)-3-[3,5-difluoro-4-(6-oxopiperidin-3-yl)phenyl]-2-oxo-1,3-oxazolidin-5-yl}methyl)-2,2-difluoroethanethioamide;

N-({(5*S*)-3-[3,5-difluoro-4-(6-oxopiperidin-3-yl)phenyl]-2-oxo-1,3-oxazolidin-5-yl}methyl)-2,2-difluoroacetamide;

N-({(5*S*)-2-oxo-3-[4-(6-oxopiperidin-3-yl)phenyl]-1,3-oxazolidin-5-yl}methyl)acetamide;

N-({(5*S*)-2-oxo-3-[4-(6-oxopiperidin-3-yl)phenyl]-1,3-oxazolidin-5-yl}methyl)propanamide;

2,2-dichloro-N-({(5S)-2-oxo-3-[4-(6-oxopiperidin-3-yl)phenyl]-1,3-oxazolidin-5-yl}methyl)acetamide;

2,2-difluoro-N-({(5S)-2-oxo-3-[4-(6-oxopiperidin-3-yl)phenyl]-1,3-oxazolidin-5-yl}methyl)ethanethioamide;

2,2-difluoro-N-({(5S)-2-oxo-3-[4-(6-oxopiperidin-3-yl)phenyl]-1,3-oxazolidin-5-yl}methyl)ethanethioamide;

({(5S)-3-[4-(1-methyl-6-oxopiperidin-3-yl)phenyl]-2-oxo-1,3-oxazolidin-5-yl}methyl)acetamide;

N-({(5S)-3-[3-fluoro-4-(2-oxopiperidin-4-yl)phenyl]-2-oxo-1,3-oxazolidin-5-yl}methyl)acetamide;

N-({(5S)-3-[3-fluoro-4-(2-oxopiperidin-4-yl)phenyl]-2-oxo-1,3-oxazolidin-5-yl}methyl)propanamide;

2,2-difluoro-N-({(5S)-3-[3-fluoro-4-(2-oxopiperidin-4-yl)phenyl]-2-oxo-1,3-oxazolidin-5-yl}methyl)ethanethioamide;

N-({(5S)-3-[3,5-difluoro-4-(2-oxopiperidin-4-yl)phenyl]-2-oxo-1,3-oxazolidin-5-yl}methyl)acetamide;

N-({(5S)-3-[3,5-difluoro-4-(2-oxopiperidin-4-yl)phenyl]-2-oxo-1,3-oxazolidin-5-yl}methyl)propanamide;

N-({(5S)-3-[3,5-difluoro-4-(2-oxopiperidin-4-yl)phenyl]-2-oxo-1,3-oxazolidin-5-yl}methyl)-2,2-difluoroethanethioamide;

N-({(5S)-2-oxo-3-[4-(2-oxopiperidin-4-yl)phenyl]-1,3-oxazolidin-5-yl}methyl)acetamide;

2,2-difluoro-*N*-({(5*S*)-2-oxo-3-[4-(2-oxopiperidin-4-yl)phenyl]-1,3-oxazolidin-5-yl}methyl)ethanethioamide;

N-({(5*S*)-2-oxo-3-[4-(2-oxopiperidin-4-yl)phenyl]-1,3-oxazolidin-5-yl}methyl)propanamide; and

N-({(5*S*)-3-[4-(1-methyl-2-oxopiperidin-4-yl)phenyl]-2-oxo-1,3-oxazolidin-5-yl}methyl)acetamide.

14. A compound selected from the group consisting of

N-({(5*S*)-3-[3-fluoro-4-(6-oxopiperidin-3-yl)phenyl]-2-oxo-1,3-oxazolidin-5-yl}methyl)acetamide; *N*-({(5*S*)-3-[3-fluoro-4-(6-oxopiperidin-3-yl)phenyl]-2-oxo-1,3-oxazolidin-5-yl}methyl)propanamide;

N-({(5*S*)-3-[3,5-difluoro-4-(6-oxopiperidin-3-yl)phenyl]-2-oxo-1,3-oxazolidin-5-yl}methyl)acetamide;

N-({(5*S*)-2-oxo-3-[4-(6-oxopiperidin-3-yl)phenyl]-1,3-oxazolidin-5-yl}methyl)acetamide;

N-({(5*S*)-2-oxo-3-[4-(6-oxopiperidin-3-yl)phenyl]-1,3-oxazolidin-5-yl}methyl)propanamide;

({(5S)-3-[4-(1-methyl-6-oxopiperidin-3-yl)phenyl]-2-oxo-1,3-oxazolidin-5-yl}methyl)acetamide;

N-({(5S)-3-[3-fluoro-4-(2-oxopiperidin-4-yl)phenyl]-2-oxo-1,3-oxazolidin-5-yl}methyl)acetamide;

N-({(5S)-3-[3-fluoro-4-(2-oxopiperidin-4-yl)phenyl]-2-oxo-1,3-oxazolidin-5-yl}methyl)propanamide;

N-({(5S)-3-[3,5-difluoro-4-(2-oxopiperidin-4-yl)phenyl]-2-oxo-1,3-oxazolidin-5-yl}methyl)acetamide;

N-({(5S)-3-[3,5-difluoro-4-(2-oxopiperidin-4-yl)phenyl]-2-oxo-1,3-oxazolidin-5-yl}methyl)propanamide;

N-({(5S)-2-oxo-3-[4-(2-oxopiperidin-4-yl)phenyl]-1,3-oxazolidin-5-yl}methyl)acetamide;

N-({(5*S*)-2-oxo-3-[4-(2-oxopiperidin-4-yl)phenyl]-1,3-oxazolidin-5-yl}methyl)propanamide; and

N-({(5*S*)-3-[4-(1-methyl-2-oxopiperidin-4-yl)phenyl]-2-oxo-1,3-oxazolidin-5-yl}methyl)acetamide.

15. A compound selected from the group consisting of

2,2-dichloro-*N*-({(5*S*)-3-[3-fluoro-4-(6-oxopiperidin-3-yl)phenyl]-2-oxo-1,3-oxazolidin-5-yl}methyl)acetamide;

2,2-difluoro-*N*-({(5*S*)-3-[3-fluoro-4-(6-oxopiperidin-3-yl)phenyl]-2-oxo-1,3-oxazolidin-5-yl}methyl)ethanethioamide;

2,2-difluoro-*N*-({(5*S*)-3-[3-fluoro-4-(6-oxopiperidin-3-yl)phenyl]-2-oxo-1,3-oxazolidin-5-yl}methyl)acetamide;

2,2-dichloro-*N*-({(5*S*)-3-[3,5-difluoro-4-(6-oxopiperidin-3-yl)phenyl]-2-oxo-1,3-oxazolidin-5-yl}methyl)acetamide;

N-({(5*S*)-3-[3,5-difluoro-4-(6-oxopiperidin-3-yl)phenyl]-2-oxo-1,3-oxazolidin-5-yl}methyl)-2,2-difluoroethanethioamide;

N-({(5*S*)-3-[3,5-difluoro-4-(6-oxopiperidin-3-yl)phenyl]-2-oxo-1,3-oxazolidin-5-yl}methyl)-2,2-difluoroacetamide;

2,2-dichloro-N-({(5S)-2-oxo-3-[4-(6-oxopiperidin-3-yl)phenyl]-1,3-oxazolidin-5-yl}methyl)acetamide;

2,2-difluoro-N-({(5S)-2-oxo-3-[4-(6-oxopiperidin-3-yl)phenyl]-1,3-oxazolidin-5-yl}methyl)ethanethioamide;

2,2-difluoro-N-({(5S)-2-oxo-3-[4-(6-oxopiperidin-3-yl)phenyl]-1,3-oxazolidin-5-yl}methyl)ethanethioamide;

2,2-difluoro-N-({(5S)-3-[3-fluoro-4-(2-oxopiperidin-4-yl)phenyl]-2-oxo-1,3-oxazolidin-5-yl}methyl)ethanethioamide;

N-({(5S)-3-[3,5-difluoro-4-(2-oxopiperidin-4-yl)phenyl]-2-oxo-1,3-oxazolidin-5-yl}methyl)-2,2-difluoroethanethioamide; and

2,2-difluoro-*N*-({(5*S*)-2-oxo-3-[4-(2-oxopiperidin-4-yl)phenyl]-1,3-oxazolidin-5-yl}methyl)ethanethioamide.

16. The compound 5-{2,6-difluoro-4-[(5R)-2-oxo-5-(1H-1,2,3-triazol-1-ylmethyl)-1,3-oxazolidin-3-yl]phenyl}piperidin-2-one.

17. A method for the treatment of microbial infections in mammals comprising administration of an effective amount of compound of claim 1 to said mammal.

18. The method of claim 17 wherein said compound of claim 1 is administered to the mammal orally, parenterally, transdermally, or topically in a pharmaceutical composition.

19. The method of claim 18 wherein said compound is administered in an amount of from about 0.1 to about 100 mg/kg of body weight/day.

20. The method of claim 18 wherein said compound is administered in an amount of from about 1 to about 50 mg/kg of body weight/day.

21. A pharmaceutical composition comprising a compound of claim 1 and a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier.